

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1872.

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# REPORT

ON THE

## Sanitary Condition

OF THE

WESTBURY & WHORWELLSDOWN RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

For the Year 1903.

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Presented to the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural  
District Council by


**WALTER H. REED,**

Medical Officer of Health of the Westbury and  
Whorwellsdown Rural Sanitary Authority.



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# REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health of the Westbury and  
Whorwellsdown Rural District Council for the Year 1903.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Rural Districts in your area.

The Area of the District is 27,118 acres.

The Population in 1901 was 6404.

The Births registered during the year were :

WESTBURY	-	-	Males, 38 ; Females, 39 ; Total, 77.	.
NORTH BRADLEY	-	-	Males, 30 ; Females, 41 ; Total, 71.	
Total for the Whole District			-	148.

The Birth-rate per 1000 on the estimated population (6445) is 22·9.

The Deaths registered during the year were :

WESTBURY	-	-	Males, 21 ; Females, 18 ; Total, 39.	
NORTH BRADLEY	-	-	Males, 24 ; Females, 27 ; Total, 51.	
Total for the Whole District			-	90.

The Death-rate per 1000 on the estimated population (6445) is 13·9

*Infant Mortality.*—Nine deaths of Infants only were registered, which is at the rate of 60·8 per 1000 of the registered Births (not the population as erroneously stated in last year's report).

Forty-seven cases of Infectious Disease have been notified to me, of which thirty-two were of Scarlet Fever at Bratton and Tinhead ; Erysipelas, six ; Diphtheria, eight ; and Puerperal Fever, one.

A serious outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Bratton commenced in October, and was probably introduced by a visitor from a neighbouring town. . Three cases occurred then, and did not spread until November 21st when several cases occurred, and I advised the closing of the Schools. The outbreak has involved fifteen houses, and the epidemic, although much abated, is not yet over.

The Schools have been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and also the houses, as far as possible, where the disease has ceased. In small cottages it is most difficult to thoroughly disinfect with the family in residence where there are only two or three bedrooms. In such cases the want of an Isolation Hospital is severely felt.

Of the eight cases of Diphtheria six were at Steeple Ashton, involving two houses. I attribute these cases to impure water. I took samples of the water and analysed them, and found they were very impure and quite unfit for domestic purposes. Chlorides and Nitrates being very abundant. In one case, at Baldham Mills, Keevil, the water was analysed and proved unfit for use.

The Wells at Steeple Ashton are old and usually situated near the house, or in a garden which is constantly manured. The slops thrown from the house (often close to the well), and the soakings of manure must percolate into the wells. Until the question of providing a proper water supply for Steeple Ashton is settled (a matter which is urgently needed) I should recommend that notices should be sent to all the inhabitants who are using the water from these open wells to have them cleansed, and all water drawn from the wells boiled before using. This may lessen the danger until a proper supply is established.

A proper supply of water for Chapmanslade is under consideration, and is much needed.

The cases of Erysipelas were of the usual non-epidemic kind.

In the early part of January my attention was called to a case of Anthrax from the Boyers Tanneries, at Westbury Leigh. Notice was sent to the Home Office by the Factory Surgeon. The case proved fatal. On visiting the Factory I found that every facility is given to the workmen for protecting themselves from inoculation or blood poisoning.

It is a great relief that the output of effete matter from the Tanneries is no longer deposited close to the road leading to Penleigh. It was an intolerable nuisance, and dangerous to the water supplying cattle on the neighbouring farms, as well as obnoxious to the passers by on the road.

Taking the whole District (with the exception of the outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Bratton) it has been an exceptionally healthy period notwithstanding the cold and wet seasons.

I have paid frequent visits to the several districts, and, with the exception of the water supply mentioned in this report, the whole district is in a fairly satisfactory state,

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

WALTER H. REED, M.O.H.



Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages.		Nett Deaths at all Ages	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
1893	10313	305	29·5	33	108·2	131	12·7	131	12·7
1894	10357	236	22·7	34	144·0	177	17·8	177	17·8
1895	10398	262	25·1	23	87·7	160	15·0	160	15·0
1896	10415	212	20·3	26	122·6	135	12·9	135	12·9
1897	10471	248	23·6	43	173·3	154	14·7	154	14·7
1898	10541	207	19·6	19	91·7	137	12·9	137	12·9
1899	10591	245	23·1	18	73·4	139	13·1	139	13·1
1900	6829	156	20·8	18	115·6	103	15·7	103	15·7
1901	6404	145	22·6	11	75·8	92	14·3	92	14·3
1902	6404	139	21·7	10	71·9	98	15·3	98	15·3
Averages for years 1893-1902	9272	215	22·9	23	106·4	132	14·4	132	14·4
1903	6445	148	22·9	9	60·8	90	13·9	90	13·9

\* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).....27118.

Total population at all ages.....6,404  
Number of inhabited houses .....2,413 } At Census of 1901.  
Average number of persons per house..... 2·9

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.....None.  
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.....Union Workhouse.  
Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District ...None.  
Is the Union Workhouse within the District?.....No.

Table 2.—Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1903 and previous Years.

Names of Localities	Whole District.				Westbury.				North Bradley.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Year.												
1893	10313	305	131	33	6649	190	82	20	3664	115	49	13
1894	10357	236	177	34	6627	155	120	20	3730	81	57	14
1895	10398	262	160	23	6662	160	108	17	3736	102	52	6
1896	10415	212	135	26	6628	136	84	20	3787	76	51	6
1897	10471	248	154	43	6659	169	106	29	3812	79	48	14
1898	10541	207	137	19	6698	136	98	15	3843	71	39	4
1899	10591	245	139	18	6736	161	84	14	3855	84	55	4
1900	6829	156	103	18	3246	79	57	13	3583	77	46	5
1901	6404	145	92	11	3158	71	49	7	3246	74	43	4
1902	6404	139	98	10	3150	70	43	4	3254	69	55	6
Averages of Years 1893 to 1902	9272	215	132	22	5621	133	83	15	3651	82	49	7
1903	6445	148	90	9	3171	77	39	7	3274	71	51	2

Table 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

Notifiable Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages.					65 and upwards.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	
Diphtheria ...	8	...	2	1	...	5	...
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	...	...	6	...
Scarlet Fever	32	2	10	14	6	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
TOTALS	47	2	12	15	6	12	...

No Isolation Hospital.

Table 4.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis ...	3	...	...	...	2	1	...
Other tubercular diseases ...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	7	...	...	...	...	1	6
Bronchitis ...	7	1	...	2	...	2	2
Pneumonia ...	4	...	...	...	...	2	2
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature birth ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ...	16	...	1	1	...	6	8
All other causes ...	47	7	...	...	...	3	37
All causes ...	90	9	1	3	3	18	56



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health on the Administration of the Act in the Rural Sanitary District of Westbury and Whorwellsdown during the Year 1903.

(A) Classification and Inspection.

Total number of Workshops in the District, as per Register.....16.  
 Total No. of visits of inspection made during 1903 by M.O.H.....4; by Sanitary Inspector.....16.  
 Note as to the chief workshop industries in the district.....The Tanneries and Glove Manufacture.

(B) Sanitation (Workshops).

**Cleanliness**—General Condition.....Good. No. of Notices served under P.H. Acts.....6.  
**Air Space**—General Condition.....Ample. **Ventilation**—General Condition.....Good.

(C) Additional Sanitation for “Retail Bakehouses.” Secs. 97 to 102.

No. of such premises in the District.....13.

Note as to their general sanitary condition.....Good.

*Action taken as to Retail Bakehouses during 1903 :—*

As to Limewashing, etc., s. 99	...	No. of defects found.	4	Notices served.	4	Defects remedied.	4
Any proceedings under Sec. 98 as to retail bakehouses sanitary unfit.....				No.			

(Ca) Underground Bakehouses.

No. of such premises in District .....None.

(D) Sanitary Conveniences.

Closets insufficient or unsuitable.....One.

(F) Home Work. Secs. 107 to 115.

Total No. of Lists of Outworkers received during 1903.....1. Representing—70 Outworkers.

Classification of Lists Received :—

		No. of Lists received to Dec. 31st, 1903.	Total No. of such Employers or Contractors.	Total No. of such Outworkers in the District.	Remarks
Outwork in connection with :					
Glove Making	... ..	1	...	70	

Outworkers' Premises—No. inspected.....25.

Action as to unwholesome premises.....None.

No. found unwholesome.....None.

Any prohibition as to infected houses (s. 110).....No.

(G) General.

No. and nature of sanitary defects reported to the Authority by H.M. Inspectors, during 1903.....None.

WALTER H. REED, M.O.H.

*To the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District Council.*

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## Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Report

### For the Year ending December, 1903.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my nineteenth Annual Report as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for your district.

*Main Roads.*—The continuous wet weather during the whole of the year has adversely affected the roads, involving an increased cost for materials. The military traffic in the autumn caused considerable damage to sections of these roads, for which a sum, as compensation, was paid by the War Office.

An improvement has been carried out on the Main Road at Edington.

*District Highways.*—The great increase in traffic caused by the carrying of milk, combined with the wet season, has rendered necessary a large increase in the cost of repair, and the substitution of limestone in lieu of native stone.

A road improvement has been carried out at East Town, West Ashton.

In many places the roads suffer owing to the occupiers of lands adjoining the Highway not keeping their ditches scoured out.

Twenty-six notices to cut hedges and scour ditches have been served.

*Sanitary.*—The Council have had to take legal proceedings to prevent the deposit of offensive manufacturing refuse by the side of a public highway.

Further connections with thirty-seven premises have been made with the public mains in Dilton Marsh.

Terms for a supply of water to the village of Chapmanslade have been arranged, and the matter is under the consideration of a Joint Committee.

The question of a source of a supply of water for the village of Steeple Ashton is not yet settled.

Plans and estimates for a new joint sewer and sewage disposal works for the village of Road have been submitted to the Local Government Board, together with plans for new branch sewers in the Westbury portion of the village.

Plans for eight houses at Penleigh have been submitted to the Council and approved of.

The Local Government Board, after considerable correspondence, have given their consent to a loan being raised for the erection of houses under "The Housing of the Working Classes Act," at Bratton.

I have made periodical inspections of the district, involving house to house inspections, at Chapmanslade, Hawkeridge, Heywood, part of North Bradley and Road.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, the owners of Boyers Mill have been required to provide an external iron staircase for the safety of their employees in case of fire.

Eighty-two notices dealing with various sanitary defects and shortcomings have been served, and the carrying out of their requirements are duly enforced.

The Schools, Factories, Dairies and Slaughterhouses have been kept under observation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. STANLEY.

January, 1904



## Rural District of Westbury and Whorwellsdown.

*Sanitary Inspector*—Mr. W. H. STANLEY.

*Address*—Market House Chambers, Trowbridge.

*Whether whole time devoted to duties of Sanitary Inspector  
or not?* No.

*Date of last Re-appointment*—September, 1903.

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department,  
during year ending 31st December, 1903.

### *Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.*

No. of Cases inquired into	...	...	25
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed	...	...	10

#### *Houses.*

No. erected	...	...	4
No. made fit for Habitation	...	...	3

#### *House Drains.*

No. Laid or Re-laid	...	...	14
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	...	...	6

#### *Water Closets.*

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	1
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#### *Privies and Ashpits.*

No. of additional Privies	...	...	5
No. converted to Pail-Closets	...	...	10
No. Repaired	...	...	23

#### *Water Supply.*

No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	1
No. of Wells Closed as Polluted	...	...	4
No. of Houses supplied from Waterworks (during year)	...	...	25
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	...	...	4

#### *Slaughter Houses.*

No. Registered or Licensed	...	...	5
No. Regularly Inspected	...	...	5
No. Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	3

*Dairies and Cowsheds.*

No. of Persons Engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under supervision	74
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Byelaws dealt with ... ..	5

*Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.*

No. under Inspection ... ..	13
No. Certified for Lime-Washing by Inspector...	2
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances ... ..	3

*Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.*

No. of Removals ... ..	13
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*Clerical Work.*

No. of Notices served ... ..	83
No. of Notices complied with ... ..	70
No. of Notices outstanding ... ..	13



